F
189
.M9P2

Class _____

Book _____

COPYRIGHT DEPOSIT

MOUNTAIN
LAKE
PARK

Mountain · Lake · Park

Summit of the Alleghanies.

By J. G. Pangborn.

Illustrated by E. H. Smith.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
MAY 19 1884
CITY OF WASHINGTON

CHICAGO:
KNIGHT AND LEONARD.
1884.

Copyright, 1884,
By C. K. Lord.

Mountain Lake Park.

We are off for the Alleghanies! Baggage packed and expressed, the hot sun pouring down its burning rays, the engine with its long train panting to be set free upon its iron pathway, the ring of the bell, and we are gone. We have left "old ills" and cares behind us, and we are absolutely "out of the dumps" and have sworn to be at peace with the world — at least for a month. The advantages of travel on a railway are so complete, and distance is of so little account nowadays, that one in his splendidly equipped car would imagine he was simply taking his ease in some drawing room, did he not look from his window to see the objects like dreams flitting past. The Baltimore & Ohio Company has not spared means or skill in the fullest equipment of its lines. The comfort it affords its patrons is unsurpassed, while the unparalleled scenery along its route is its grandest feature.

Here we come to a halt at the very summit of the mountains, three thousand feet above the level of the sea, and midway between the famous resorts of Deer Park and Oakland we find Mountain Lake Park, "Beautiful for situation," a natural gem rapidly receiving as superb a setting as art can give it, a wilderness which is being "made to blossom

as the rose." The Park contains eight hundred and fifty acres. Three hundred of these have been cleared, avenues carefully laid off and named, the natural drainage has been supplemented by engineering skill, and a large number of

cottages, varying in size, style and cost, has been erected, twenty-three within the past year, some of great beauty and of substantial character. The artist finds ample subjects for his pencil in this sequestered, shady villa, where he beholds ornamentation and modesty harmonizing, and surrounded with the thick green foliage of "nature's own" oaks.

The best of roads for carriages have been constructed, already aggregating from eight to ten miles within the grounds. Here is a quaint, peaceful "city of magnificent distances," whose avenues are broad and long, and where crowding is out of the question. Under the tall and arching trees the sunlight and shadows play, and now and then one catches a glimpse of a towering mountain peak in the dreamy gray of the distance, adding a peculiar charm to the carefully planned avenues. Again has the B. & O. manifested its interest in the success of the Park by constructing a fine roadway from the Deer Park grounds to Mountain Lake, and thence by Lake Youghiogheny, along the mountain ridge, southward, making a complete circuit of road bed, thus affording the best opportunities to those who enjoy the pleasure of a picturesque mountain drive.

Of course the trees here have not been reared in infancy in the nursery, and been taught how to grow, and where. The flowers have not been cultivated amid advantages of the hot house. These are in their native mountain freedom and glory, and richer foliage never hung from branches, and sweeter wild flowers never bloomed amid the rocks and rich mosses, or lifted their plumes of snow or purple amid the rank green grasses of the meadow, where birds of many crests and songs build their nests hard by "the liquid lapse of murmuring streams." The study of botany is a feature in

the educational advantages of the Park, and ample practical experience can be found by the diligent student.

Nothing can contribute more to the attractiveness of a summer resort than the cool, refreshing springs that gurgle from the rocks, or the silvery streams that feed the lake

and heighten the beauty of the landscape. There is the "Little Yough," flowing from its source in the mountain and threading the grassy glades, where countless numbers of daisies, "mountain sweets," sprinkle their pure white and yellow along the banks. A rustic bridge spans the stream, and near by is a rustic summer house, inviting a call and a rest, gratefully accepted by the multitude that thread their way from the depot to the park grounds.

A lake, mirror-like and serene, lies before us, made up of the waters of the "Broad Ford Run," the united flow of twenty-three springs of pure water. The boat house is handsomely constructed, and boats are constantly in readiness for those who enjoy a row in the cool evening and soft moonlight.

There are many excellent springs, the principal, "Crystal Springs," being famed for its sweetness and sufficiency. Partially inclosed by a cluster of thickly foliaged bushes and small trees, it issues from the fissured rocks of the mountain side and speeds on over the white pebbles and stones, murmuring welcome and refreshment to the visitor who, once there, must needs come again.

Of the healthiness of this resort of the mountains no one will entertain a doubt. To the fatigued or languid, who need change and rest, no atmosphere could be more exhilarating. There are no miasms here, no stagnant waters with decayed vegetable matter, and putrid with disease. An altitude of three thousand feet will drive away all apprehension of malaria and assure us that the air, though a "little cool for summer," is free from the blood-poisoning sporia that, like Egypt's devouring locusts, swarm in the dense atmospheres of lowland swamps and in filthy docks of the heated cities. Here sleep is sweet, balmy and invigorating; the appetite quick-

ened at the sight of savory dishes, and especially the far-famed "mountain mutton," with its sauces of mint. The enchantments of the mountain are medicinal, they calm and heal and, as Emerson says, "these are plain pleasures, kindly and native to us," and "at the gates of the forest the surprised

man of the world is forced to leave behind his city estimates of great and small, wise and foolish. The knapsack of custom falls off his back with the first step he makes into these precincts."

A short drive along the mountain side on the new road leading to Deer Park is the picturesque "Lake Youghiogheny." From this up the mountain is laid a "tram way" for cars on which the hardy mountaineer brings down his timbers which he has prepared for transportation or for the B. & O. Road. Leaving the quiet water gleaming in the sunshine, to secure a further view of the bold mountain, and, taking our time, note here and there a mountain hut or a saw mill, or stray along the bounding streams where the angler is successfully tempting the speckled trout. Onward still and a sign-board points us to the "Boiling Spring"; we take the hint and press upwards and are fully rewarded. Near the spring a great avenue has been cut through the tall fir trees, and reminds one of the romance of some poet or legend-writer as he depicts the solemn spirit-haunted groves and the thickly shaded ways leading to some mystic grotto.

If we had any "superstitious feelings," they have suddenly disappeared as we stand with the company of cheerful visitors gazing on the bubbling fountain or taking a draught of the cool, invigorating fluid. The spring is in the center of a rocky plateau; a wild-looking place, and may be, after all, some evil genius has presided here, if we may trace, in a strong imagination, his footprints on the disordered rocks, and has been driven off forever by the advance of civilization. This spot is well worth a visit, and possesses particular interest.

Eagle Rock is ascertained to be the highest point of the Alleghanies, and is a distance of about five miles from Mountain Lake. High on this pine-crowned height is a great

pyramid of rock; and on the very summit lie several of great size, as though Nature had placed them carefully as apices to the strange monument rearing its gigantic head above all its fellows. These, with broad, flattened surfaces, invite the sight-seer to climb upward and stand upon them to take a view as imposing as ever came before human vision, unparalleled in scope and unsurpassed in diversified natural beauty. It would seem almost incredible that the eye could take in such distant objects, but so it is that because of the altitude and rarefaction of the atmosphere scenes forty miles distant are distinguishable.

Rational recreation implies something more than mere animal enjoyment. "Man is an animal that thinks." Modern resorts, therefore, are being planned on the principle that provision should be made for the healthful and pleasurable exercise of the mental faculties as well as of the physical power. To meet this demand the Mountain Lake Park Association has set apart a magnificent grove for literary gatherings, and has provided an ample auditorium for the accommodation of assemblies. "A feast of fat things" has been arranged for this season. Chief among them is "The Assembly," to be held from August 14 to 29, consisting of a brilliant course of twenty lectures on literary, scientific and religious subjects, and, in addition to this Lecture Department, a S. S. Normal Department, a C. S. T. Department and a C. L. S. C. Department, these cabalistic letters indicating to all "Chautauquans" the fact that this is a Mountain Chautauqua. The programme contains the names of some of the most eminent lecturers of the American platform, and some of the best workers in fields of moral culture. The Assembly will be preceded by a "Summer School of Amateur Photography,"

ENTRANCE TO THE AUDITORIUM.

which is "something new under the sun," and will, no doubt, cause an expression of pleased surprise to pass over the countenance of that bright luminary itself, which can hardly help smiling on the enterprise. The New York "Photographic

Times" says: "This is an excellent idea, and the management are to be congratulated on their discernment in perceiving the advantages of amateur photography as a source of recreative study and practice." The school will be under the direction of Prof. Charles F. Himes, Ph. D., of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., who is one of the pioneer amateurs, a teacher of science, thoroughly in earnest and competent to make the enterprise a successful one. The picturesque features of the Park and its surroundings admirably adapt it to this purpose, and excursions with the camera will no doubt be as popular this season as botanical or merely recreative rambles have been heretofore. Of the many other plans for the employment and entertainment of visitors we have neither time nor space to speak. Suffice it to say that nowhere can a more healthful physical, social, literary or moral atmosphere be found than at Mountain Lake Park. Our artist has depicted some of its beauties, but to the eyes that have looked upon the skillful photographs and followed these lines, the lips of all who visit the real scenes described will surely say, "The half has not been told." During the season all trains on the B. & O. stop at Mountain Lake Park.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 014 313 826 4